IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

: Masaaki OKA

Filed

: Concurrently herewith

For

: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR.....

Serial No.

: Concurrently herewith

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 9, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

For documents written in a language other than English, English language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(3).

As this Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended

that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Bean Reg. No. 44,528

Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman 575 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10022-2585 (212) 940-8800 Docket No: SCEP 20.778

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1449/PTO		·	U.S. Depar	ce .	Application No. :						
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE							First Named Inventor: M. OKA				
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT							Group Art Unit :				
Sheet 1 of 1							Examiner Name :				
							Attorney Docket No. : FUJZ 20.770				
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Examiner Initials		Cite No.'	U.S. Pat	tent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		F	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY		Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages Relevant Figures Appear
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/GW/			2002	2-010129	JP	Matsushita Electric Ind. Co Ltd.		01-1	01-11-2002		
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Unique citation designation number. *See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. * Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). * For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. * Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1* if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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